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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION  
Extension Service  
Washington, D. C.

NATIONAL ADVISORY GROUP ON 4-H POSTWAR PROGRAMS

A Progress Report

"What shall be the direction of the 4-H Club program after the war?" was the question uppermost in the minds of Federal staff members and State leaders last fall. After discussing the matter with the Federal staff, it was unanimously agreed that the question should be explored in true cooperative Extension Service manner - across the conference table from State, Federal and county viewpoints. Consequently, a group of State and county leaders were invited to counsel with the Federal staff immediately following the 4-H Club Congress. The first meeting was held December 7, 8 and 9 in Chicago. The group asked for a second meeting. This was arranged and held in Chicago April 12, 13 and 14.

This is intended as a statement of progress, pending publication of a report later.

Kenneth W. Ingwalson, Chairman  
Division of Field Coordination

PURPOSE OF GROUP

First:

To chart the course for future 4-H programs by

- A) Analyzing the larger problems ahead in terms of their effect on youth and what youth can do about them.
- B) Developing a set of guiding principles in program building and organization for use by counties and States.

Second:

To show how all youth can be mobilized to attack postwar problems and, by doing something about them, help to contribute to the building and maintenance of peace as they have so effectively done in winning the war.

ORGANIZATION

The members of the group were invited to serve by Mr. H. W. Hochbaum, Chief, Division of Field Coordination, with the approval of directors concerned. The group consists of two State 4-H leaders from each extension region (one man and one woman), two county extension workers (one man and one woman) and five Federal extension workers in 4-H Club Work. In addition to representing their regions, three members represented important National conferences previously held in connection with postwar planning.

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The personnel is as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Region and Special Conference represented</u>
Kenneth W. Ingwalson, Chairman	Field Agent	4-H Club Work
Mylo S. Downey	Maryland	Eastern State, Extension Subcom- mittee on 4-H Club Work - L.G.C.A.
H. C. Seymour	Oregon	Western States, White House Con- ference on Rural Education
W. H. Palmer	Ohio	Central States, Extension Subcom- mittee on 4-H Club Work - L.G.C.A. Outlook Conference
Mrs. E. P. Barker	Iowa	Central States
Miss Pauline Bunting	Montana	Western States
J. W. Whitehouse	Kentucky	Southern States
Miss Elaine E. Massey	Mississippi	Southern States
Albert Hoefer	New York	Eastern States
Miss Marion E. Forbes Miss Tena Bishop (alt.)	Massachusetts "	Eastern States " "
J. Turpin Mrs. Clara Oberg (alt.)	New Jersey Minnesota	County Work " "
Miss Gertrude Warren	Field Coordination, Organization	
Dr. E. H. Shinn	Extension Service	Field Agent
R. A. Turner	"	" " " "
E. W. Aiton	"	" " " "
W. G. Lehmann	"	" " 4-H Postwar Exhibits

#### THE PLAN OF PROCEDURE

The group approached their planning task in a somewhat new manner. Briefly, they proceeded as follows:

1. Selected basic problem of agricultural and home economics as set forth by technicians and specialists who had been giving special attention to postwar problems. These served as a basis for the approach to "Program" building.

2. Selected a group of basic problems in "Organization" as defined by a Committee of Federal 4-H workers from statistical analysis or those generally accepted because of historical background. These were used as a basis for strengthening "Organization." Each problem was analyzed in terms of the following questions:
  - (a) What are the situations that youth will find themselves in and what are the major problems confronting them in the postwar world? What should youth know about the problems?
  - (b) What specific opportunities do these situations and problems present to the 4-H program through which solutions may be sought for the individual boys and girls as well as for the community? What can youth do about it?
  - (c) What adjustments need to be made in the 4-H Club organization in order that it can operate at maximum efficiency? What basic principles need to be more actively applied in order that more youth may remain active in 4-H Club Work longer and reach more youth 15 to 21 through the 4-H program? How can we reach all youth?
3. Each problem was resolved into
  - (a) Goals
  - (b) Type of action called for
4. In general, the committee tried to portray their recommendations in terms of
  - How the job can be done
  - What approaches and methods they think will work
  - Kind of leadership required for the task ahead
  - Kind of activities which will lend themselves to youth work, etc.
  - What kind of materials are needed

#### PROBLEMS CONSIDERED

Each member of the group took one or more problems for special analysis and study, then reported to the Committee as a whole as a basis for discussion.

#### The Question:

How can youth be mobilized to help solve the following problems; and translate the action into a PROGRAM?

1. Farm Income
2. Family Food Supply

3. Health, Nutrition and Safety
4. Rural School Education
5. Farm Tenure
  - Owner
  - Tenant
6. Housing and Home Improvement
  - Rural Electrification
7. Agriculture Production Adjustments
  - Marketing
  - Distribution
8. Rural Family Living and Recreation
  - Church
9. Conservation of Land, Water and Forests
10. Rural Public Policy Making
11. Youth Migration - Vocational Guidance

How shall we adjust the club organization in order to accomplish the task in keeping with 4-H objectives?

Organization

Membership

Projects

Local Organization

Leadership

Relationships

Teaching Methods

Appeals

Contests, Awards and Recognition

#### MATERIALS USED

1. Report - the Committee on Post War Agricultural Policy of the Association of Land-Grant Colleges
2. Report - White House Conference on Rural Education

3. Report - Outlook Conference, Washington
4. Materials from members discussion National Club Congress
5. Wartime Family Living
6. Annual Reports

## TWO RESULTS

Notes on the conference are now being prepared by various committee members for their use.

These will serve as a basis for shaping:

First - A broad over-all program of 8 or 9 points. These to give broad concepts concerning the direction of the over-all program

Second - A guide suitable for use in county and State program planning in terms of local and national problems that need action

It is apparent from the results of the deliberations of the National Advisory Group on 4-H Postwar Programs that the 4-H Club leaders will be giving increased emphasis to plans which will concern themselves more with the

### 1. Development of the individual

This will involve programs that will help young people acquire

#### (a) More skills including -

Mechanical

Constructional

as well as those associated with production and conservation

#### (b) Greater knowledge

More on marketing

More on how to get started in farming

More on matters pertaining to public affairs and policy making as well as those directly associated with efficient production

Farm and home management

#### (c) Richer attitudes - toward home life, country living, local community responsibility and that of the world community

#### (d) Keener judgment - More planning by young people. More emphasis on the "why" as a basis for the "how," more facts as a basis for decisions.



- (e) Wholesome philosophy - More cultural programs like music, spiritual of life programs in cooperation with the church. More work in connection with programs that develop an appreciation of the things around about them.
  - (f) Better health - Programs will deal more with
    - (1) Improvement of individual health
    - (2) Disease education
    - (3) Community health work
  - (g) Better balanced personality with emphasis on emotional stability - Getting along with people, having a wider circle of friends, a feeling of security as well as better personal appearance are recognized as a need of rural young people.
2. Helping of young people to choose a way to earn a living
    - (a) In occupations other than agriculture and home economics
    - (b) Those who will stay will be given help in getting more satisfaction from farming and homemaking
  3. Youth will be increasingly mobilized to attack large problems in terms of their ability to handle them.  
Examples: Better housing  
Greater farm income  
Better family food supply  
Conservation of natural and human resources, etc.
  4. Great stress on the establishment and maintenance of a happy home
  5. More emphasis on a well-rounded recreational program in the club and community as well as for large groupings, including more 4-H camps.

#### BASIC PROCEDURES

To carry out such programs, 4-H leaders recognize the need for

1. Strong local clubs enjoying community support, arising out of and being an integral part of it.
2. Increased numbers of voluntary adult leaders well trained in working democratically with youth.
3. A broad definition of the 4-H projects.

This work must be easily available in wide choice without too many restrictions.

4. Developing and using teaching methods other than the project, like discussion groups, short courses and institutes.
5. Strong county organization of leaders
6. More local planning in terms of
  - (a) Community problems to be met
  - (b) Interests of young people
  - (c) Family needs and cooperation
7. Grading of programs by age and interests
8. Special programs and techniques for the 15 to 20 year olds like
  - (a) Coeducational groupings
  - (b) More autonomy
  - (c) More recreation
  - (d) Larger challenges
  - (e) Father-son partnerships
9. Preparation of specialized literature for 4-H members, and also for leaders, keeping in mind age, readability, philosophy, purpose of the bulletin and objectives of the work. More color and illustrations are recommended.

Above all, State leaders want the work so programmed and professionally staffed as to make 4-H work readily available to all of the ten million young people between 10 and 20 years of age, and to hold them long enough to permit the work to influence their development in accordance with the established objectives as set up by the Land-Grant College Association.

#### SOME OBSERVATIONS

This venture in using the problem approach to 4-H program planning was sufficiently successful to indicate

1. Extension staff members engaged in 4-H work are ready to think in terms of the larger, more basic issues affecting people, particularly youth, in addition to thinking in terms of projects or commodities.
2. The basic ideas embodied in 4-H Club Work can be utilized to mobilize youth power over a wider range of problems than are usually considered as being in the 4-H field.
3. That extension staff members working in the 4-H Club field are stimulated by the challenge of the new problems ahead and are anxious to attack them with courage and conviction.
4. State leaders are anxious to move forward with a bigger, more significant program for youth. However, they recognize the need for
  - (a) Adequate and properly trained staff

- (b) Effective and adequate supervision
- (c) A continuous study of their job
- (d) Full support of the entire Extension Service

5. The 4-H leadership recognizes that youth can address itself to problems of mature magnitude and that real strength can come to the entire extension program when all branches of the service are attacking similar problems. However, they are confident that the way young people are mobilized, the extent of participation, and what the program does for the boy or girl must be kept always in the forefront of planning in order that youth are strengthened and prepared for their world ahead.

#### FOLLOW-UP ALREADY PLANNED

1. Report to be made to State leaders, 1945 National Club Congress
2. Report will serve as a basis for delegates' discussion 1945 National Club Congress
3. Progress report to be made at Central States Conference of State 4-H leaders
4. Presentation to Extension Subcommittee on 4-H Club Work

The committee hopes that the launching of the program will be reinforced with three publications:

1. Complete, detailed statement for use by State staff members (Multilith).
2. Printed publication for use by county extension agents. Purpose to assist with program planning and reinforce State materials.
3. Popular picture story bulletin on 4-H postwar programs.

Plans now are underway for exhibits to support the program.